

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Method for fractional crystallisation of an at most partially solidified molten metal, wherein crystals are formed in the molten metal during partial solidification of the molten metal, which crystals have a composition different from the composition of the molten metal used as a starting point, comprising:

cooling a layer, of the at most partially solidified molten metal to be crystallised, by a layer of cooling liquid present above and/or below the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal [[so as]] to crystallise the molten metal to form the crystals having a composition different from the composition of the molten metal used as a starting point, [[which] wherein the layer of cooling liquid contacts the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the layer of cooling liquid is only present below the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the layer of cooling liquid is cooled [[at]] in at least one spot near the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the cooling liquid is transported relative to the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein the cooling liquid is recycled.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the molten metal is transported relative to the layer of cooling liquid.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the cooling liquid is a molten salt.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal is divided into compartments that communicate near the layer of cooling liquid.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the at most partially solidified molten metal is stirred.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal is divided into compartments that communicate near the layer of cooling liquid, and wherein the at most partially solidified molten metal is stirred in at least one compartment.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein at most partially solidified molten metal is added between both ends of ~~a~~ the length of the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal, and refined metal is removed at one end and remaining molten metal is removed at the other end of the layer of metal.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the metal used is aluminium.

13. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the method removes Cu, Fe, Ga, Mg, Mn, B, Si, Sn, Zn or Ni from aluminium.

14. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein the cooling liquid is recycled and cooled.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein the layer of at most partially solidified molten metal is divided into compartments that communicate near the layer of cooling liquid, and wherein the at most partially solidified molten metal is stirred in all compartments.